

PROGRAM CONNECTION COMMITTEE MEETING

Minutes for
Friday, August 20, 2004

Present: Edie Sprehn, Liz Mahloch, Amy Roland, Doreen Lang, Theresa Fosbinder, Sara Edmonds, Amy Mendel-Clemens, Fred Bartol, Bill Lien, Jacquie Piraino, Jodi Ross, Shirley Ross, Alan Sweet, Marilyn Putz

W-2 Report Card

When CORE was activated they had to resort to compiling by hand. Since the contract numbers were old numbers the info was no longer valid. They are working with finacne to resurrect the report. The test version looks good and it may be in production shortly. It will be a monthly report on the web.

RMS Status

RMS came up at the W-2Consortium Rountable. There have been no recent meetings of the workgroup. We will discuss this at one of our next Program Connection meetings when John Rathman is here since he was heavily involved in this issue. Marilyn Putz asked about the results of the W-2 private agency eligibility reporting survey that was done in the last year. Jacquie Piraino will check into this.

Security Access to Automated Systems

Bill Lien gave background info on the issue regarding CARES access for specific screens for county contracted agencies to enable them to conduct contract services. All W-2 and IM agencies signed a Data Agreement last January, the agencies need to notify the Security Desk regarding the partner or contract agencies for whom they want access granted. Non-government employees cannot access the IRS data base. Energy Assistance contractors can get 10-12 screes, but not the UI or IRS screens. CARES access is allowed for the admistration of Child Care, Medical Assistance, Food Stamps, and Energy Assistance for the purpose of issuing benefits, determining eligibility, Quality Assurance, Fraud and Benefit Recovery. DHFS owns CARES, Jim Jones is in charge of it. Bill emphasized that CARES can only be used for CARES program related work, CARES cannot be used as a data source for WIA work. The Security Office will send out a notice explaining the use of CARES and process to use to up-date the Data Sharing Agreements to add partners/contracted agencies.

Child Care/Kids First Update

Alan Sweet encouraged everyone to look at the website, the address is www.dwd.state.wi.us/kidsfirst. The taskforce is working on a quality rating system which will result in a tiered reimbursement rate. They should submit their final report in October and then several public meetings will be held to obtain feedback. The taskforce will meet after the hearings to submit their final plan for the system for inclusion in the governor's budget. He distributed a sample of what the system could look like.

W-2 Training Update

Carried over to next meeting

Improvement of Child Support and ES/W-2 Agency Coordination

Postponed to a meeting when John Rathmand is in attendance since he is involved with this issue.

12 Month Face to Face Review Project

DHFS wants to design a system that captures the information needed but does not greatly increase the workload nor inconvenience working participants. They are soliciting a short term workgroup of agency staff to give input. They are looking for staff knowledgeable in child care eligibility, CARES and local policy and procedures. Notify AA of recommended staff.

CARES Web Based Projects

1st group going out August 21 and second one in October. By Aug 30 some screens will no longer be available on the mainframe, staff will need to have security access for the Web by then.

Review of PAC Discussion of Workload Issues Related to EVFs and FPWs

The issue is: SMRF CC reviews are adding an extra workload burden. If a face to face is done for FS, this should eliminate the SMRF. If private agency does CC Review this cannot count as a FS review, if same worker, not an issue. Per Sara Edmonds, this issue has been fixed.

The issue is: Employer verification for family waiver cases, these are on a 12 month review cycle and employment verification forms go out from CARES, even though they are not needed. The committee agreed that FPW cases should just be exempted in CARES from employer verification, DHFS is not sure if this can be done before October when all changes will be on hold.

W-2 Policy Recommendations

Fred Bartol indicated that several Admin Memos have been recently released.

04-19 focuses on up front job search and 04-20 focuses on the use of CSJ's. Both have a 3 fold purpose: 1. encourage rapid workforce attachment 2. focus on up front workforce attachment 3. CSJ placements should be designed to move participants to work ASAP.

Several recommendations from the committee were made regarding Caring for Newborn placements. DWD should consider reducing the CMC payment to the level of the W-2 T payment and they should consider reducing the length of the payment to 6 weeks which more emulates the real work world.